

basis for nominating members from that community to the various Town Improvement Committees.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

168. Inadequate representation of the Christian community in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

Mr. Ousep Avira Tarakan (Member, Nominated) said that, in point of population and literacy, the Christians were not behind any other community in the State. But they were not having adequate representation in the Assembly and the fact was brought to the notice of Government at the various sessions. The Government themselves were convinced of their grievances and nomination was resorted to as a measure of relief. The number of elected taluk members from Christians at the present session was only 5 out of 43. The minimum qualification for a voter was the payment of a Sirkar tax of Rs. 50 per annum. On account of the division of properties in each family the number of individual Christians paying that tax was fewer than the number of individual members of other communities to whom partition was not permitted by law. The Member suggested that the reduction of the minimum tax from Rs. 50 to Rs. 25 would afford some relief to the Christians. If that suggestion was not considered feasible, the Christians of those taluks, where their population was large, should be allowed to elect a member of their own for each of such taluks.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

169. The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Mahomedans.

Mr. Pitcha Vava Sahib (Member, Nominated) suggested that the Mahomedan members nominated to the Assembly every year by the Government should be those who were able and competent to bring before the notice of the Government the urgent needs of the community in the matter of education, and that they should be nominated from towns where the Mahomedans inhabited in large numbers or from associations which worked for the social regeneration of the community. He said that there were over 9,000 Mahomedans in the town of Alleppey. An association called "Lajanathul Mahamadeeya" was formed in the town to improve the general condition of the community, particularly in matters educational. Without active support from the Government it was not possible for the Mahomedans of Alleppey to achieve their object. He therefore requested that it be ruled that one of the four nominations accorded to the Mahomedans should be made from the town of Alleppey for some years to come.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

170. Desirability of allowing one more Member to the Assembly from the Ambalapuzha taluk.

Mr. Ousep Chacko (Member, Ambalapuzha taluk) said that trade and industry depended mainly on agriculture and therefore the latter was more important. Even though there were traders throughout the State, particular places which were trade centres were allowed to elect a member to the Assembly. There were thus seven representatives of traders. It was equally necessary to give such centres of agriculture as Kuttanad and Nanjanad, special representatives for agriculturists. It was therefore desirable to allow one more member for Ambalapuzha.

Again, the tenants holding Crown lands were everywhere treated with distinction. More than two-thirds of the Kandukrishni lands in Travancore were in his taluk and the revenue from that head alone was about three times the ordinary land revenue of a taluk. It was therefore also desirable to allow one more member for the taluk.

Dewan.—The privilege of electing two members is given to those taluks of the State which have a population of 1,25,000 and above.

The Member said that population alone should not be the basis of calculation. The revenue collected, the special conditions, etc., were also facts to be taken into consideration in determining the question. The Member requested that the privilege

of sending two members to the Assembly, which the taluk once possessed, should be restored to it.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

171. Appointment of a Christian Member to the Assembly from the Changanachery taluk.

Mr. Ousep Thommi (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) represented that, though the Christians formed more than one-fourth of the population of the State, they were not represented in the Assembly by a proportionate number of members. That was due to the fact that the Christian families which were governed by the system of partition were not in a position to secure Christian voters paying a Sirkar tax of Rs. 50. Considering the large number of the Catholic Syrian Christians, the Member prayed that the Changanachery Christian Association might be allowed to elect a Christian member to the Assembly every year or that the Government might nominate a member from the said association in years in which the taluk member was a non-Christian.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

172. Nomination of two Members annually, one from each of the Divisions of Quilon and Kottayam, to represent the Gouda Saraswatha Brahmin community in the Assembly.

Mr. Srinivasa Kammathi (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for nominating him to the Assembly. He said that, considering the population of his community and their interests, there must be two members to represent their grievances in the Assembly.

Dewan.—The total population of your community is only 10,218 and for such a number, do you say that one member is not sufficient?

The Member said that his community was scattered over twelve different places and required more than one member for the adequate representation of their grievances. He therefore prayed that the Government might be pleased to nominate annually two members of his community one from the Kottayam Division and the other from the Quilon Division.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

173. Nomination of a Member to represent the Cardamam ryots in the Assembly.

Mr. Ankur Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) said that most of the cardamom ryots were residents of Cumlam, Kudalur and other places in British India, adjoining the Peermade taluk and that they lost the right of voting in the taluk for the reason that they did not reside within it although they satisfied the requisite property qualifications. The consequence was that the people of Kanjirapally and other places were elected as members and that the grievances of the cardamom ryots were not properly represented by such members, as they were ignorant of the difficulties of the cardamom ryots. The Member therefore prayed that the cardamom ryots might, as a special case, be permitted to elect annually a member from among themselves to represent them in the Assembly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The consideration of the subjects being over, the Ezhava Members of the Assembly submitted a joint memorial praying for a legislative enactment to regulate marriage and succession in the community.

Some of the Members then addressed the Dewan as follows:—

Mr. R. Eswara Aiyar, B. A. & B. L., (Member, T. I. C., Quilon):—

Sir,

We, the members of the Twelfth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, request you to convey our respectful feelings of deep devotion and abiding loyalty to His Gracious Highness the Maha Raja. It is the united and whole-hearted prayer of